

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02
ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 AID-05 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 /071 W
-----011829Z 025328 /43

R 011645Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4983

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY/PA

SECDEF/ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONROVIA 3847

FOR AF/W - PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR CARTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LI

SUBJECT: GOL REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN FMS LEVEL

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SHERMAN MAY 30 PRESENTED TO THE ACTING DCM A THIRD PERSON NOTE (TEXT IN PARAGRAPH 3) DATED MAY 27 IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA (GOL) REQUESTS A "GRANT/LOAN" IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6.5 MILLION TO BE USED TO IMPROVE THE DEFENSE CAPABILITY OF THE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (AFL). THE FUNDS WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS (FIGURES ROUNDED): WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT: \$3,000,000; AMMUNITION: \$1,300,000; STORAGE TANKS AND PUMPS \$118,000; TRAINING MATERIALS: \$475,000. THESE TOTAL APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILLION. THE GOL HAS ADDED 1.5 MILLION TO THIS SUM AS A BUFFER TO ABSORB EFFECTS OF INFLATION AND OTHER COSTS. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO UPGRADE THREE INFANTRY BATTALIONS WITH NEW WEAPONS, FIELD EQUIPMENT, SIGNAL ITEMS AND SUPPORTING TRANSPORTATION ASSETS. INCLUDED ALSO IS PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A SMALL POL STORAGE CAPABILITY. NO INCREASE IN PERSONNEL IS INVOLVED.

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2. COMMENT: PRESIDENT TOLBERT IN A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR CARTER MAY 6 REQUESTED THE AMBASSADOR FOR MISSION COMMENT ON A MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MOD) PLAN FOR IMPROVING THE DEFENSE CAPABILITY OF THE AFL. WITHOUT COMMITTING THE US TO SUPPORT SUCH A PLAN, THE US MILITARY MISSION (USMM) IN COORDINATION WITH THE EMBASSY MADE SUG-

GESTIONS (PRIMARILY INVOLVING LOWER LEVELS OF PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION) WHICH RESULTED IN A REDUCTION IN TOTAL PLAN COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$1.0 MILLION. WHAT THE GOL NOW PROPOSES IS, IN EFFECT, AN INCREASE IN FMS FUNDING FROM THE PRESENT FIGURE OF \$500,000, PHASED PERHAPS OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR THE GOL TO IMPROVE THE DEFENSE CAPABILITY OF ITS ARMED FORCES, THIS REQUEST OBVIOUSLY REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE STUDY ON OUR PART, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE SPECIFIC ITEMS MENTIONED, OF THE DEFENSE NEEDS OF LIBERIA, AND OF THE ABILITY OF THE AFL TO ABSORB THIS INPUT EFFECTIVELY.

THIS REQUEST MUST BE VIEWED ALSO IN THE CONTEXT OF THE US FIRM INTENT TO REDUCE THE WORLD LEVEL OF ARMS TRANSFERS. THE MISSION IS PREPARING COMMENTS ON THESE MATTERS. AS AN INTERIM STEP IN CONSIDERING THIS PROPOSAL, THE USMM IS REQUESTING SEPARATELY FROM DEFENSE AN ANALYSIS OF THE ACTUAL COSTS AND AVAILABILITY OF THE ITEMS LISTED UNDER THE CATEGORIES MENTIONED ABOVE.

3. THE TEXT OF THE NOTE FOLLOWS: QUOTE:

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO INVITE THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND SOLICIT ITS CONTINUED INTEREST IN A MATTER OF HIGH NATIONAL PRIORITY AND CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO LIBERIA.

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1. LIBERIA STANDS AT THE CROSS-ROADS IN AFRICA BETWEEN MANY FORCES OF COMMUNISM AND CAPITALISM; EAST AND WEST; THE SYSTEM OF STATE CONTROL AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY; AND ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY. IN RECENT YEARS THESE PRESURES HAVE CONVERGED WITH GREAT INTENSITY ON OUR COUNTRY AND THE SITUATION

URGENTLY REQUIRES CONTROL IF WE MUST REMAIN A PART OF THE FREE WORLD, ENJOYING THE BLESSINGS OF ALMIGHTY GOD IN THE CONTUNUED EXERCISED OF OUR INALIEN-ABLE RIGHTS AS A NATION.

2. IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, IT IS NO SECRET THAT COMMUNISM HAS TAKEN A STRONG HOLD AND IN SOME INSTANCES WITH THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE SOVIET BLOCK DIRECTLY, AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF CUBA AND SOME ARABS. IT IS FURTHER WELL KNOWN THAT ONE OF THE TACTICS OF COMMUNISM IS PROVOCATION AND THEY HAVE SPARED NO OPPORTUNITY IN PREPARING THEMSELVES FOR EXPANSION ON THIS CONTINENT.

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ACTION AF-10

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ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 AID-05 L-03 CIAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MONROVIA 3847

FOR AF/W - PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR CARTER

3. IN OUR PARTICULAR SITUATION, WHERE OUR CONSTITUTION, LIKE THAT OF THE UNITED STATES, IS THE PRODUCT OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION OF POWERS WHICH ENSURES TO A GREATER EXTENT THE RIGHT, LIBERTY AND FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL WITHIN THE SOCIETY, WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH MASS ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY OF CITIZENS OF NEIGHBOURING AND NEARBY COUNTRIES WHO ESCAPE FROM THE OPPRESSIVE PRESSURES OF COMMUNISM AND ITS BRUTAL ACTS.

4. ON ACCOUNT OF ALL OF THESE PRESSURES, IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT, IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN OUR STANCE IN UPHOLDING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SOCIETY AND IN DEFENSE OF THE FREE WORLD, WE MUST AT LEAST POSSESS THE MINIMUM DEFENCE CAPABILITY TO PROTECT OURSELVES AGAINST AN ATTACK FROM WITHOUT. WE THEREFORE REQUIRE A SMALL BUT EFFECTIVE ARMY WITH ORDINARY AND REGULAR CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS NOT ONLY AS A DETERRENT BUT A MEANS OF PROTECTING THIS HEGEMONY.

5. IN A RECENT SURVEY EXECUTED BY THE LIBERIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE U.S. MILITARY MIS-
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SION TO LIBERIA, IT HAS BEEN DISCOVERED THAT A DEPLORABLE SITUATION EXISTS IN OUR DEFENSE, THE CORRECTION OF IT REQUIRES DISCIPLINED MEN, ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO BE ABLE TO HOLD OFF AN ATTACK FOR A PERIOD OF TWENTY (20) DAYS. THE ANALYSIS OF ARMS ON HAND AND THOSE REQUIRED FOR THIS PURPOSE IS ATTACHED FOR REFERENCE. ALSO ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF THE MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY THE LIBERIAN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AFTER ITS REVIEW OF THE POSITION.

6. THE NEED FOR THIS PREPARATION IS URGENT AND THE FINANCIAL ABILITY OF THE NATION AT THIS TIME TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT IS NOT PRESENT. CONSEQUENTLY, WE HAVE TO LOOK FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD.

7. THE HISTORY OF LIBERIA IS BOUND UP TO THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IN THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THIS FIRST AFRICAN REPUBLIC, LIBERIA HAS BECOME, SOMETIMES IN THE FACE OF SERIOUS ODDS, THE SURE FOUNDATION IN AFRICA NOT ONLY OF AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP, BUT ALSO FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE FREE WORLD. IT IS THEREFORE NATURAL THAT UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SHOULD TURN TO THE UNITED STATES FOR ASSISTANCE IN A MATTER NOT ONLY BASED ON FRIENDSHIP BUT ON CONFIDENCE WHICH IS THE ESSENCE OF OUR LONG AND MUTUALLY FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP.

8. THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE IT, IF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD ASSIST IN THIS UNDERTAKING BY PROVIDING A GRANT/LOAN IN THE SUM OF \$6.5M ON FAVOURABLE TERMS AND CONDITIONS TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED. THIS SUM WOULD BE USED, AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE ANALYSIS, TO COVER THE COST OF WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENTS, AMMUNITION, STORAGE TANKS AND PUMPS AND TRAINING MATERIALS. OTHER NON-CAPITAL ITEMS SUCH AS SUBSISTENCE, PETROLEUM, OIL, LUBRICANTS AND TRAINING WOULD BE PROVIDED IN OUR NATIONAL BUDGET AND WOULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF

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THE TOTAL SUM REQUIRED.

9. IN VIEW OF OUR RELATIONSHIP AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER, THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA WOULD APPRECIATE IT, IF AN EARLY TRANSMISSION OF THIS REQUEST WAS MADE SO AS TO FACILITATE THE RESPONSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AS OUR NEEDS AS DESCRIBED ARE BASIC AND URGENT.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE AMBASSADOR

OF THE UNITED STATES HIS ASSURANCES OF HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND ESTEEM.

END QUOTE.

4. THE GOL NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM, REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE GOL NOTE, IS NOT BEING FORWARDED TO THE DEPRARTMENT.
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Message Attributes

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